GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:283
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2006
INDIA- PAKISTAN TELECOMMUNICATION LINKS
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been signed between India and Pakistan in regard to the telecommunication links;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether security aspects have also been taken into account while signing the agreement; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 283 FOR 10TH MARCH, 2006 REGARDING INDIA-PAKISTAN TELECOMMUNICATION LINKS.

(a) & (b) The various International long distance service providers are free to enter into agreements with service providers of other countries to provide international long distance services.

M/s. Reliance Infocomm Ltd. (RIL), M/s. Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL) and M/s Bharti Tele Ventures Ltd. have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) for the establishment of a telecommunication link deploying Terrestrial Optical Fibre Cable System between India and Pakistan. However, the links have so far not been established.

(c) & (d) The security agencies are aware of the proposed optical fibre cable system between the two countries. The ILD service providers can pass the commercial traffic on the terrestrial optical fibre system only after obtaining clearance from the security agencies.